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Jackson

LIBRARY NEWS

ISSUED QUARTERLY

By

Mississippi State Library
Commission

Chapter 131, Code 1930

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Mrs. Robert C. Pitard	Jackson
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Mrs. Julia Baylis Starnes	Jackson
Mrs. Horace Stansel	Ruleville

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NEW MEMBERS OF THE M. L. A.

Since the last publication of Library News, the following names have been added to the membership of the M. L. A. for the present year:

<p>Mrs. Linda A. Chamblee Librarian, Evans Memorial Library Aberdeen, Mississippi</p>	<p>Mattie May Vinerette Librarian, Ellisville Junior Col- lege Ellisville, Mississippi</p>
<p>Miss Janie Betts Clark Librarian, Benton High School Benton, Mississippi</p>	<p>Mrs. Stella M. Weber Librarian, Wood Junior College Mathiston, Mississippi</p>

APPOINTMENT OF LIBRARY COMMISSION MEMBERS

At the expiration of the period of service of two members of the Library Commission, Governor Thomas L. Bailey reappointed Miss Frances Davis, Hattiesburg, and appointed Mrs. Horace Stansel, Ruleville, as a new member. Miss Davis brings to the Commission several years of library experience in various fields—college librarian, Camp Hospital Librarian, State WPA Library Supervisor, Public Librarian. She is now head librarian in the Hattiesburg Public Library.

Mrs. Stansel, a former member of the state legislature, has long been interested in libraries and was on the legislative library committee in 1940 that was responsible for the passage of laws broadening the powers of the Library Commission, including the acceptance and use of federal funds. The Horace Stansel Memorial Library in Ruleville was erected by friends as a memorial to the late Horace Stansel, who was a member of the state legislature and Speaker of the House. Both Mr. and Mrs. Stansel have shown an appreciation for the public library as an educational institution.

The following tentative program is submitted by Mrs. Gertrude Rowzee, President, and the Executive Committee of the M. L. A.

MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING AND

ROBERT E. LEE HOTEL, JACKSON

October 17, 18, 19, 1946

Theme: FACING TODAY'S LIBRARY CHALLENGE

Mrs. Gertrude Rowzee, President, presiding at all general sessions.

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

6:30-7:45 P. M.

OPEN HOUSE.

State Board of Health Library, Old Capitol,
Louise Williams, Librarian.

Department of Archives and History,
War Memorial Building
Dr. W. D. McCain, Director.

(Those attending the Association will have the privilege of visiting these two libraries during this period and may learn more of the services they offer.)

8:00 P. M.

First General Session—War Memorial Building.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Paul Meek, President
University of Tennessee Junior College
Martin, Tennessee.

Introduced by J. M. Tubb,
State Superintendent of Education.

9:15 P. M.

Informal Reception—Jackson Public Library.
Miss Pearl Sneed, Librarian, Hostess
Assisted by library staff.

Beginning with this session all meetings will be held at the Robert E. Lee Hotel.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

9:30-12:00 A. M.

Second General Session—Hotel Roof Garden

Libraries—The National Picture
Mrs. Lois R. Green, Director,
State Public Library Service Division,
Montgomery, Ala.

Mississippi Libraries—Present and Future,
Miss Frances Davis, Librarian,
Hattiesburg Public Library and
Member of the Library Commission.

Discussion Period—Leader, Mrs. Eunice Eley,
Secretary, Mississippi Library Commission.

12:30-2:00 P. M.

Trustees and Citizen's Luncheon,
Jameson C. Jones, Corinth, Chairman,
Citizen's Library Movement, presiding.

2:15-4:45 P. M.

Third General Session—Hotel Convention Hall

Explanation of the T.V.A. Library Survey,
Mrs. Augusta Richardson, Librarian,
Alcorn County Library.

Business Session.

The Atlanta Book Fair,
Miss Pearl Sneed.

7:00 P. M.

Mississippi Authors Book Dinner,
Dr. William D. McCain, Presiding,

Major Bell I. Wiley, Director Louisiana
State University History Department, Speaker.

Other Mississippi Authors as guests.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19.

9:00 A. M.

School Librarian's Breakfast,

Miss Margaret Green, Kosciusko,
Chairman, School Libraries'
Section of M. E. A., presiding.

Miss Catherine Clark, School Library
Consultant, Discussion Leader.

NOTE: Registration will be maintained preceding each session at the War Memorial Building and at the Robert E. Lee Hotel.

The above program promises to hold a spot of interest for all who are concerned with books and libraries. Beginning with the visits to the Department of Health and The Archives and History Libraries, even the uninitiated will have a new pride in seeing what these two departments have to offer and the librarian may find a new source of help in supplying his own library needs. Don't fail to visit these two libraries during this Open House period. In addition to the social feature of the Jackson Public Library reception, visitors will have opportunity to see the various departments of the library.

The Thursday evening program should be of special interest to educators and those interested in cooperation of school and public libraries. The University of Tennessee Junior College, of which Dr. Meek is President, is the center of a Regional Library Service for school and public libraries.

The library program on a national scale will be presented by an out-of-state speaker and will be of value as a measuring stick for our Mississippi library service. The discussion of the library situation in our state should be of interest to all. Miss Davis will also present to the Association, the Library Commission plans for a state library program, including the request for appropriations at the next session of the State Legislature. National Relations and the possibility of Federal Aid for libraries will be discussed. Then those present will have opportunity to say what they think, to ask questions and to make suggestions.

DO COME! And come prepared to "air your opinions."

The Friday luncheon is particularly for library trustees and members of the Citizen's Library Movement. This, of course, includes all librarians and **EVERYBODY**. There will be brief reports of the Citizen's Library Movement and recognition of library trustees present.

At the Buffalo ALA Conference we learned that we are behind the times if we do not have a **LIBRARY SURVEY**. Well, we may yet have a library survey. Mrs. Augusta Richardson will tell us all about it and the Association may decide what it wants to do about it.

THE BUSINESS SESSION will be one of the most important periods

of the Conference. Members may express opinions on place of meeting, amount of dues or perhaps other matters of interest to all.

If you have never attended a BOOK FAIR, you will hear all about how a Book Fair is conducted.

At the BOOK DINNER a Mississippi author will speak and you may see other Mississippi notables.

Miss Catherine Clark, the recently appointed School Library Consultant, will meet school librarians, and others who want to attend, at breakfast Saturday morning. There will be a discussion of school problems and Miss Clark will have helpful materials for distribution. This meeting will not be lengthy and will leave time for shopping later.

If you miss this Association meeting, You'll Be Sorry.

HOTEL RATES

The Robert E. Lee offers the following rates:

Single rooms	\$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50
Double rooms	\$3.50, \$4.00, \$5.00
Three in a room.....	\$5.25
Four in a room.....	\$6.00

MEAL TICKETS

Friday Luncheon	\$1.25
Book Dinner	1.75
School Librarian's Breakfast.....	1.00

Tickets may be purchased at reservation desk.

Due to crowded hotel conditions reservations should be made early to avoid disappointment.

Other Hotels in Jackson are the Heidelberg, the Edwards, The Wal-thall.

THE SOUTHEASTERN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION meeting will be held in Asheville, North Carolina, October 23-26, 1946. The Battery Park Hotel is the convention headquarters.

LIBRARIES IN A NEW ERA

Mary U. Rothrock

President of the American Library Association

(Address delivered at the A. L. A. Convention, June 13-23, 1946, Buffalo, N. Y. Copied, by permission, from the A.L.A. Bulletin, July, 1946).

It is traditional that at this point the incoming President presents a paper which treats intensively, if not extensively, of library concerns

which in his judgment should receive major attention from the membership during the year ahead. This year, after earnest consideration, I shall depart from the tradition for a reason which I trust you will find valid.

This is our first general membership meeting in four years. Its theme has been gearing libraries to a new epoch. Programs at General Sessions and group meetings have been pointed to achieving broad and rapid diffusion of information in the libraries of the United States and Canada and to maintaining and strengthening those international relationships which have been for years so substantial a part of the American Library Association's program. I believe that these should continue to be our aims for next year and that each of us in his own situation should undertake some definite, considered action toward their attainment.

Monday morning we shall be back at our desks. What then?

Then we shall become absorbed again in routine duties; the old, familiar pressures will reappear; the impressions of this conference week will be less vivid. Lurking skepticisms, abetted by inertia, will revive the question: Is this period really different? A long list of witnesses tell us that it is, and they support the assertion with an impressive array of facts. Our own reason impels us to accept Norman Cousins' conclusion:

However great our reluctance to acknowledge the birth of the new age, the fact is that it is already here. What remains to be decided is whether we are going to stand up to it and meet it head on or whether we are going to back into it; whether we should fulfill its responsibilities and develop its promise, or whether we should try to circumvent it on the theory that what we don't think about can't hurt us . . . ¹

For libraries it is a highly important characteristic of this new age that modern methods of transportation and communication have annihilated space; the billion inhabitants of earth now live as near neighbors in a world which has become one small geographic unit. Our social organization is infinitely complex. Our relationships to one another are so intricately interwoven that there is no longer the possibility of economic security for a few favored nations while neighbor nations starve. In this shrunken and interdependent world, the bell which tolls for Greece or for Poland tolls also for us.

These conditions, and the appalling fact of the atomic bomb, impose on the people of all nations the necessity of learning how to get along together. They place a literal survival value on the ability of nations to understand one another and to establish peaceful and constructive working relationships. This means that we as individual Americans confront the necessity of making some very rapid and sweeping changes in our ways of thinking and acting. It means that in an almost incredibly short span of time, 138,000,000 people must acquire the in-

¹Cousins, Norman. *Modern Man is Obsolete*. New York City, Viking, 1946, p. 17.

formation and the attitudes which will enable them to think and act as world citizens, not as American citizens only.

Broad Dissemination

Clearly, if this is to be done—as of course it is—it can be accomplished only through the broadest possible dissemination of information. Not just any information, but the facts that people must have as a basis for forming sound judgments. Not biased or fragmentary information, but interpretations and ideas from the most varied sources—from radio and film, newspapers, magazines, and books. We shall all do well to remember that for the long term it is not a few people in strategic positions of influence who will build the lasting structures of national and international cooperation and security; it is the millions of plain “grass roots” Americans who live in Middletown and Sauk Center and on farms in the West, South, and North; and it is an indispensable prerequisite for this that they shall have ready access to a vigorous free flow of information and diverse ideas. Sound solutions do not come from starved and stagnant minds; and where information and ideas are lacking, minds are starved.

Libraries, of course, afford only one of the channels through which this essential knowledge may reach the people; nevertheless, their responsibility is unique, for they give society its best ground for hope that historical perspective, fulness of information, and differing points of view will form a part of the people's body of knowledge on which rests the security of democratic government.

Libraries Are Big Business

By quantitative standards libraries are now in position to exert very great influence. As Dr. Joseph L. Wheeler has recently observed, the institution “from which Americans borrow 450,000,000 books a year, and whose operation involves annually more than \$50,000,000, is not one whose services and importance may be passed over lightly.”² The American public library, he adds, “has developed an enormous clientele which borrows and reads an increasing proportion of substantial books and demands a constantly greater volume and more intensive type of reference service.”³

It does not follow, however, that merely because libraries lend 450,000,000 books they are contributing effectively to the useful information and wisdom of the people. To obtain this result, a directed educational emphasis is required. It should, I believe, be the urgent aim of libraries to give a conscious educational emphasis to reading. There are some hundred million American citizens who live within the service range of present libraries. They are entitled to a rich provision of the library materials which will facilitate their adjustment to this new age and will make them intelligent citizens of both the nation and the world.

²Wheeler, Joseph L. *Progress & Problems in Education for Librarianship*. Carnegie Corporation of New York, 1946, p. 9.

³*Ibid.*

Librarians' Preparation

But merely to think favorable of increasing the educational values of the reading which is supplied from libraries is not in itself to accomplish that end. Librarians who would have this responsibility must be prepared to meet it adequately. This indicates, I believe, that our whole present organization for professional library education needs to be strengthened and expanded. Liberal provision needs to be made for continuing in-service education and for a variety of opportunities for library workers who may lack academic credits but who nevertheless want to increase their capacity for useful public service.

A new educational emphasis, however, laid down upon existing library organizations will not be enough. There is an almost desperate need for libraries generally to assimilate the newer media for mass communication and bring them into active use as a normal everyday function. Few librarians indeed seriously believe that our responsibility for the diffusion of ideas is limited to the printed page. Radio and film as means of conveying information and ideas are too all-pervasive and powerful to be overlooked, but still we have done almost nothing about them. With a few exceptions libraries have made little progress in the past quarter century in utilizing inventions and technological improvements in communication.

Our first concern needs to be in films rather than in radio, because the 16mm. film movement has now reached a stage where there is a substantial supply of films well suited to the needs of individual citizens, lay groups, and libraries, and where, at the same time, future production is in danger of being retarded for want of just such consumer outlets as libraries are able to provide. Admittedly, the library which undertakes to provide films to its community takes on some new problems, but they are problems whose answers will be found and found most quickly through actual first-hand experience. For 16mm. films have now become familiar to millions of American citizens through their use in the armed services, in industrial training, and in a great variety of adult education and other group programs. Films, of course, cannot take the place of books, but they can do some things that books cannot. Libraries, by using films, can reach millions of people to whom their present services are literally closed books. Our Canadian colleagues have much to teach us in this field.

Many Ways Possible

Increasing the educational values to be derived from library reading, mastering the use of new media of mass communication—these are but two examples of an infinite number of ways in which libraries can adapt their services to the great need. If we can stir imagination, vision, and inventiveness into the traditional functions, we have the right to hope that libraries will be able to help mankind learn to live in peace and happiness in this new age.

1946 CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

November 10-16

Theme: MORE BOOKS FOR MORE CHILDREN

The Children's Book Council, 62 West 45th Street, New York 19, New York, has available a pamphlet on suggestions for the observance of Book Week and description of material that may be ordered. The following is a quotation from the Book Council pamphlet:

Your Community Provides

In every community there are progressive groups and individuals who can be brought together under the banner of "More Books for More Children." A united community sponsorship can spread the effectiveness of your program far beyond the confines of your own town.

BOOK WEEK IN UTOPIA

Just for the fun of it, what would happen in a community with a 100% BOOK WEEK cooperation? Sunday: The morning of the 10th of November dawns upon a community whose well laid plans are all set to go into action. These plans were made by a steering committee of educational and civic leaders which has been functioning since summer.

As the sun rises, the city of Utopia is a very garden of books. In the shop windows on Main Street, in the bank windows on Market Street, the library up on High, in the church basement where Sunday School meets—there are books, books everywhere.

Ministers from their starting point of the Book of Books, talk to the people about how books can enrich our understanding of the meanings in our lives.

Newspapers and radio carry stories about books, about the people who write and illustrate them; about the part books have played in man's progress.

Monday: A gala dinner formally open Book Week. All the citizens who can crowd in are here. There are few—and good—speeches by outstanding citizens and a stimulating program which includes plans for extending Utopia's book resources.

Tuesday: The whole town turns out for a book pageant produced by the elementary schools which have cooperated in a big program. The event is reported in the local press and radio.

Wednesday: Each school and each library has a lively discussion meeting on "Books are Bridges": there are special exhibits built around this theme.

Thursday: In the auditorium, the librarians provide a program of talks, with a distinguished author as a guest speaker. There is an

exhibit of large posters showing graphically the most popular books, the reference books the children use, the facilities of the library.

Friday: The high schools put on a short dramatic production, a mock-radio quiz program, and a comedy skit. This lively program gets much attention in the local press and radio.

Saturday: A Book Parade, gay with floats and story-book characters, marches through the streets of Utopia to the strains of the High School bands.

Throughout the week, boy scouts, girl scouts, campfire girls, have been very much in evidence at every program. And they, like every other group, have had special programs of their own.

The booksellers have helped everywhere with exhibits, information, publishers' lists of forthcoming books. They have made it easy for people to place orders. They have shown their important place as suppliers of books to their community.

After the parade all is quiet. **BOOK WEEK** is over until next year. It's like waiting for Christmas. Everyone knows it will be just as exciting next time.

The Council Provides

The Council makes available various materials to help in planning and carrying through stimulating book programs.

1946 Book Week Posters

Designed by Maud and Miska Petersham and printed in full color, this poster will appeal to all ages. Size: 16 x 19½ inches. Price: 25c each; 5 for \$1.00; 15 for \$2.50; 35 for \$5.00; 100 for \$12.50.

Display Captions

"Books are Bridges to . . ." themes attractively printed in blue on buff cards. 2½" x 8", set of 10, 25c.

Book Mark

Carries a reproduction of the poster and a list of inspirational ideas tying in with the 1946 theme. Size: 5¼ x 2½ inches.

Price: \$2.00 per M; \$3.50 per 2M; \$7.00 per 5M.

Newspaper Mats

An aid to getting publicity in the local papers.

Size: 3 inches, single column—15c each.

5 inches, single column—15c each.

5 inches, double column—25c each.

Set of 3 mats: 50c.

Handbook

"Children's Books Around the Year" contains a collection of detailed reports of successful book activities for schools, libraries and book stores. Price: 50c.

Newbery and Caldecott Bookplates

Attractive sepia bookplates featuring reproductions of both sides of Newbery or Caldecott Medal. 15 for 50c, in any assortment. Phonograph Records

With these records you can bring a prominent authority on children's books into your own radio station, library, school or club room.

Price: \$3.00 each.

Frederic G. Melcher of **Publisher's Weekly** gives boys and girls some of his lively enthusiasm in a talk about books and reading.

An inspirational talk for adults by May Lamberton Becker of the N.Y. Herald-Tribune.

Wall Map

"The World in Story Books" illustrates children's literature around the world. Edited by Mary Gould Davis, and printed in full color, size 20½ x 27 inches, this gay map provides an adventure in familiarization with story books, old and new. Price: \$1.50.

Children of the World Poster

This lovely, colorful poster, carrying the United Through Books slogan is reprinted by popular demand.

Size: 16 x 19½ inches.

Price: 25c each.

Children Need Books Posters

Photographs in black and white of children reading.

Size: 11 x 16 inches.

Price: set of 6, 75c.

"TEEN AGE BOOK SHOWS FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

To encourage in young people the habit of reading outside class-room assignments, Pocket Books, Inc., with the assistance of "The American Weekly" and "The Saturday Review of Literature", is sponsoring "Teen Age Book Shows, who slogan is: "Read Today . . . Star Tomorrow." The show consists of assembly programs (including a 12-minute movie short dramatizing the pleasures and benefits of reading), book display materials, a 32-page booklet for each student attending the exhibit, and a bibliography for each display category.

There is no charge for any part of the program except the cost

of transporting the exhibit and film (250 lbs.) from its prior location to your city. (Pocket Books will pay any amount over \$10.00.)

Write to the following address for further information:

Pocket Books, Inc.
Att. Miss Martha Hudleston
1230 Sixth Avenue
New York 20, New York.

STATE NEWS

SCHOOL LIBRARY CONSULTANT

July 1, 1946 Miss Catherine Clark of Ruleville was appointed by the State Department of Education as School Library Consultant. After receiving a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi and a degree in library science from Columbia University, Miss Clark was librarian in several of the larger schools of the state. For a year previous to this appointment Miss Clark was assistant librarian with the Mississippi Library Commission.

It is felt by school and public librarians that this appointment is a step forward in library progress in the state. The Mississippi Library Association has for some years promoted such an appointment as one of its objectives.

Miss Clark will work from the State Department giving assistance to school librarians.

APPOINTMENTS ON LIBRARY COMMISSION STAFF

With the increase in the Library Commission budget, appropriated by the last session of the state legislature, two librarians have been added to the staff. Miss Martha Couty of Greenwood has been employed as cataloger. Miss Couty has a library degree from Emory University and has had several years of public and school library experience. For five years previous to this appointment she was librarian in the Natchez High School.

Miss Julia Bowles of Houston is secretary and reference assistant. Miss Bowles received a degree from Mississippi State College for Women in June, 1945 with a major in library science. She has had experience in the OPA Office in her home town.

OVERSEAS LIBRARIES

Miss Emma Jo Alexander of Brookhaven, who is attached to the Overseas Library Service, spent 30 days leave in the state last summer. She sailed for England the last of August to begin a second year of

service as librarian. Miss Alexander had many interesting comments on overseas libraries. Some of her experience has been:

Sailed May 26, 1945, for England. Assigned to temporary duty in London. Permanent assignment in Southampton where she supervised a library for redeployment troops and a library for Headquarters Personnel. November 1945 sent to Paris then to LeHarve, France to establish two libraries.

Transferred to Wieden, Germany as regimental librarian. Establish a library and operated a bookmobile to troops stationed in other areas, (The bookmobiles are former Army Signal Corps trucks remodeled to house about 1800 books.) Some areas could not be reached by bookmobiles because of ice and snow so small library deposits were sent to them via jeeps fitted with shelves. March 1, 1946, moved with the outfit to Bayreuth, having from Thursday until Saturday to pack up and get ready to move. She says, "My driver and I were ready to move at the set time only to find ourselves snowbound and with three flat tires. There we stayed for eight days. The rest of the outfit moved on leaving me behind until they thought it safe for a female to be moved. At present stationed at Bayreuth, Germany, about 50 miles from Nurnberg in northern Bavaria. Will serve a library in the American Red Cross Club and others in nearby areas and supervise a hospital library and a library for the American community where dependents of Army personnel are housed. This latter library will include books for children.

"Most of the Army library work is of a supervisory nature once the libraries are established and books processed. Some of the problems are to find a building that won't fall down, trying to get it safe to be moved, getting the carpentry work done, searching for paint and material for curtains—these things don't fall in your lap. All of the books are shipped from the states, a very good collection. The circulation of fiction and non-fiction is about even. The personnel consists of an Army Librarian, usually two soldiers and German Civilian girls who speak English."

Present Address:

Emma Jo Alexander, Army Librarian
c/o American Red Cross Club
6th Constabulary Regiment
APO 179, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York.

Other Mississippi librarians who have had overseas serv-

ice are: Mattie Swearengin, Meridian and Mary Elizabeth Upton, Hattiesburg. They both worked as librarians at Camp Shelby and left the States in the Spring of 1945. Miss Swearengin returned home early in 1946 and was married. She is now Mrs. Robert H. Howard and is librarian at Camp Bragg, North Carolina.

Miss Upton is stationed at Munich, Germany in one of the largest libraries in the American Occupation Zone.

Scott County seems to be the first county in the state to benefit by the passage of the bill allowing counties to levy a one-half mill tax for library support, in addition to the regular county levies. (House Bill No. 310, passed at the Regular Session of the State Legislature, 1946).

The Scott County Library was organized October 1945 and for the present year has had an appropriation of \$1,200 from the Board of Supervisors. Other small appropriations have been made by the town of Morton and Lake to provide small salaries for library custodians to keep these library units open several hours each week. Several hundred dollars have also been contributed voluntarily.

The one-half mill tax levy will bring in about \$2,000 annually which, with the loan of a good number of books from the Library Commission, will enable the library to serve all county schools and county residents, to a limited degree.

The Library Board has met regularly throughout the year. A very enthusiastic citizen's meeting was called by the Library Board in July. This was attended by representatives of civic clubs, Home Demonstration Agent, County Superintendent of Education, ministers and the Secretary of the Library Commission. The Hinds County Bookmobile was borrowed and taken over for demonstration. Scott county hopes later to have a bookmobile to serve rural residents.

THE HANCOCK COUNTY LIBRARY at Bay Saint Louis held its annual Tag Day, August 24, for the benefit of the library. Last year more than \$500.00 was contributed. This year the goal has been set at \$750.00 which has not, as yet, been reached but volunteer contributions are still coming in.

Miss Louise Crawford, in charge of the library, writes that the Hancock County Bank can not continue to give them the rooms on the second floor that the library has occupied for about ten years rent-free. Miss Crawford says, "This is because we have so increased our number of books that the weight is injuring the building but we are not too disturbed because the library means too much to the people not to be supported and we are quite sure that a location will be provided."

THE HINDS COUNTY Board of Supervisors has moved the Hinds County Library, which has been located in the county Court House in

Jackson, to the Hinds County Junior College in Raymond. The library is housed in rooms adjacent to the College library, but is entirely separated in its service. The bookmobile continues to serve county patrons from Raymond.

THE STORY HOUR

Contributed by **Katheryne Haynes**

Assistant Librarian, Alcorn County Public Library

It was Saturday morning at the library. The librarians at the desk were surrounded by fifteen to twenty children all waiting to have their books checked in or out.

Children peeked out from every nook and corner of the library, but especially from the children's department in the hall, separating the circulation room from the reference room.

Suddenly the romping and childish voices ceased, for all the children had gathered into the room set apart for the Saturday morning Story Hour. For thirty or forty minutes quietness reigned; then once again children flocked to the desk and eventually drifted back to their homes in Corinth.

So it was each Saturday morning during the past three summers at the Alcorn County Public Library, Corinth, Mississippi. Story Hour originated the first summer after Mrs. Augusta B. Richardson assumed the head librarianship of the combined Alcorn County Library and the former city subscription library. In the first and second years of its existence, 1943-1944, high school girls and college girls met with the children to tell them stories. The next year the library was fortunate in securing Mr. Steffani Schutze, a retired professional story teller of Chataqua days, to entertain the children with stories, some of them written by himself or by his wife. Mr. Schutze often gave the children an opportunity to tell stories themselves, a practice which has been continued and enlarged upon at Story Hour this summer. The attendance increased steadily from one summer to the next, with the largest groups this summer, numbering as many as seventy children.

After one month of Story Hour at the library, the children and library staff conducting this children's feature, moved to the radio studios of WCMA. There The Story Hour was first broadcast at 10 o'clock on the morning of July 6, 1946. The children congregated at the radio station, thrilled at the new meeting place, each one eager for his time to come to tell a story over the air.

Planning Story Hour into a thirty-minute radio program was a new experience for the library staff, involving the important element of time, which had not formerly been of major consideration. The opening and closing remarks of the announcer had to be written and timed, and each

portion of the program made to fit into the twenty-eight minutes actually allotted for the Story Hour program.

Two or three children appeared on the broadcast each week. They were asked to come to the library early in the week preceding their appearance on the air to practice their stories. The children were allowed to select their own stories and encouraged to tell them in their own words. This also gave adequate time for newspaper publicity before each program.

Recorded stories were frequently used to vary the programs. The longer stories which were continued from week to week were especially popular. Often guest story-tellers were invited to participate. Mr. Schutze, one of the judges for the original story-writing contest, promoted through the Story Hour, appeared on the last summer broadcast to award the prize to the winner of the contest and to tell "The Little Black Kitty." Two local girls, Miss Mary King and Miss Margaret Mercier, and two out-of-town college girls with special training in radio, Miss Bette Boyd, of Drew, and Miss Jane Hosmer, of Amory, also were guest story-tellers during the summer.

Story Hour proved so successful as a radio program that it was extended through the month of September, broadcast each week. In the following months Story Hour will be on the air twice monthly, alternating with book reviews and round table discussions about books designed to reach the adult public.

LIBRARIANS

Miss Elizabeth Robinson of Sioux City, Iowa, who was the first Secretary of the Mississippi Library Commission, visited in the state in the early summer and was welcome by many friends.

Miss Phyllis Matthews has resigned her position with the Department of Archives and History and has accepted a position in the University of Wyoming Library.

Miss Elizabeth Williams visited the Library Commission recently on her way to her home in Natchez. Miss Williams has been librarian at Camp Van Dorn, Camp Rucker and is now stationed at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

Mrs. Aleene Brisco, formerly employed by the Jackson Public Library has resigned from this position and moved from the state. Mrs. Brisco was Secretary of the Mississippi Library Association. Miss Louise Williams, Librarian of the State Board of Health, Medical Library, has been appointed by the Executive Committee to fill this unexpired term.

Miss Cornelia Eastland of Raleigh, North Carolina, has accepted a position with the Hinds County Library.

Miss Clara Chamberlain of Natchez has resigned her position in the

Monroe, Louisiana High School to accept a position as school librarian in Hattiesburg.

LIBRARY SERVICE FOR NEGROES

The Hattiesburg Public Library has recently opened a branch for negroes. This library is in charge of a colored woman who has received instruction from Miss Davis, librarian. A special collection of books have been bought and processed by the public library.

The Secretary of the Library Commission met recently with a Committee of white and colored people in Ocean Springs to discuss plans for a library for negroes. This was an enthusiastic meeting. Though Ocean Springs has only a small club library, club members want to share the joys of reading with those of the colored race. This negro branch will be opened within the next few months with some books furnished by the Library Commission and others bought by funds collected locally.

The Pascagoula Public Library is making plans to open a branch for negroes.

The Harrison County Library is asking the County Board of Supervisors for \$1,500 to use for a negro library branch.

The Clarksdale Public Library has, for many years, maintained a branch library for negroes. The books are housed in an attractive library building supervised by a library worker trained by the Public Librarian. Books in this branch are as carefully selected and are as attractive as those in the main library. That they are used is shown by the circulation of 6,734 shown on the last annual report.

The Evans Memorial Library in Aberdeen has a branch for colored readers. The branch is supervised by a colored worker, working under the direction of the public library. This branch, located near the negro school, is popular with school children and adults.

LIBRARIANS ARE NEEDED

We in Mississippi who are concerned with a more wide-spread and more effective library service throughout the state have been talking for years about better financial support for libraries. We have, several times, asked the state legislature for State Aid to help small local libraries. The Library Association, the Library Commission, library trustees, citizens, educational and civic organizations have said that what we need is more Money. A good many individuals and organizations in the state have worked for the passage of the Library Demonstration Bill by writing and sending telegrams to our Congressmen and to members of the Committee handling the bill. We have not received State Aid and

the Library Demonstration Bill was not passed at the last session of Congress.

Perhaps we need to change our emphasis. Perhaps if we had more and better librarians and could use the funds we have more wisely, library appropriations might automatically be increased. A good librarian is the best "sales-talk" for libraries. Increased funds, not spent to the best advantage, is a good argument against the need for more funds. A good librarian can take small funds and give more service than a poorly trained, inefficient librarian can do with larger funds. What does this all lead to? Just this—**We Need More Librarians**, more well-trained librarians to show to appropriating bodies and to the tax payer that library funds are well spent.

If we should get State Aid, which we earnestly hope for; if the next session of Congress passes the Library Demonstration Bill, making available \$25,000—\$75,000 to Mississippi libraries, can we use the money wisely without more trained librarians in the state?

What are we librarians, teachers and library trustees doing to recruit young people into the profession? Have we made the profession look attractive to them? Have we brought this profession to the attention of G. I.'s (men and women) who may be undecided about their education? Have we talked to high school classes about librarianship as a profession?

This is a problem that needs to have something done about it NOW. If we are going to raise the standard of library service in Mississippi, which is about at the bottom of the list, we must have more leadership in the state. More professionally trained librarians can furnish this leadership.

It is not merely a question of raising salaries to outbid other libraries and other states. There are just not enough librarians to go around—though they are going 'round and 'round from job to job now.

The Willson Library Bulletin for September 1946 has an excellent article on the subject on page 74 under the title Talking Shop by M. D. L. The article discusses the method that Mexico is using to stamp out illiteracy. President Camacho inaugurated the "Each-One-Teach-One," campaign. Every literate Mexican is asked to teach one illiterate. The article says—

"Somewhat the same 'each-one' policy is being translated into professional librarianship at the University of California Library by Librarian Lawrence Clark Powell. We quote from his 'Brief Essay on Recruiting Addressed to the Staff'.

"Staff members should remember that our profession does not automatically perpetuate itself. A good measure of a library—and of each department in that library—is the number of students or clericals it has

recruited for librarianship. Each of you should ask yourself the question, What have I done and what am I doing toward peopling my profession? . . . Every student who works for us is a potential librarian.

"The best recruits are those who are inspired by the librarians for whom they work to see in librarianship a dynamic service profession. 'Love of books' is not enough. Offer no refuge to the escapist; discourage the dilettante; pity the spiritual misfit, but close the door to the maladjusted. Librarianship holds no magic therapy. Its successful practice calls for normal (not average) men and women. Good health, good nature, good sense—look for these qualities.

"In early contacts with students proselyte merely by your own example. Reveal to them that you regard books as more than so many statistical units which are always threatening to bury you, as more than inanimate objects to be trucked from pillar to post. Show by your every action that you believe Milton's dictum, 'Books are not dead things.'

"University librarians are of necessity departmentalized. Circulation librarians cannot survive without sturdy feet and serene dispositions; reference librarians should not stammer or stutter; workers in acquisitions and catalogs deal more with books than with people, and their detective sense must be sharp, their patience endless.

"We do not wish to recruit students all of one type. Keep these varied aspects of our work in mind when you are sizing up a prospect. Neither pure extrovert nor introvert makes the best librarian; most of us are hybrids, and properly so . . . We have already sent many students on into librarianship, and some of them have come back here to work—a fruitful cycle! . . . May I ask that each of you regard yourself as a one-man committee, and carry on!"

